

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of May 17, 2004.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicants note the filing of a Preliminary Amendment on September 15, 2003, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants will provide a true copy to the Examiner.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patents 6,584,897; 6,427,587; 6,269,742 and 6,089,151

Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent 6,584,897; claims 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent 6,427,587; claims 9 and 10 of U.S. Patent 6,269,742; and claims 9 and 10 of U.S. Patent 6,089,151.

Claims 1 through 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 11 of U.S. Patent 6,584,897; claims 7 through 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,587; claims 9 through 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,742; and claims 9 through 19 of U.S. Patent 6,089,151.

In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing Terminal Disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the Terminal Disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Attached are the Terminal Disclaimers and accompanying fees.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 11 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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